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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/845,588	04/30/2001	Xiaohui Wang	82295WFN	3243
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7590	01/07/2004		EXAMINER	
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343 State Street
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2882

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/845,588	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chih-Cheng Glen Kao	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informality, which appears to be a grammatical error: (claim 1, line 11, "which is a plane"). The following suggestion may obviate this objection: (claim 1, line 11, inserting - -in- - after "is"). For purposes of examination, the claim will be treated as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polkus et al. (US Patent 6422749) in view of Lobregt et al. (US Patent 6097833).
3. With regards to claims 1 and 5, Polkus et al. discloses a method for acquiring a radiographic image (Fig. 2) comprising: positioning an object (Fig. 2, #28) between a stationary but pivotally mounted source of x-rays (Fig. 2, #12) and a flat digital capture device (Fig. 2, #20); moving the flat device in a planar direction parallel to a known imaging dimension (Fig. 2, #20, and col. 3, lines 26-28); and rotating said source of x-rays about a first fixed axis

perpendicular to the direction of moving said device and which is in a plane spaced from and parallel to the planar direction in coordination with said moving to project x-rays from the source to the device (Fig. 2, #12, and col. 3, lines 21-22 and 45-67).

However, Polkus et al. does not disclose acquiring an elongated radiographic image of a human body part and moving the detector to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of images.

Lobregt et al. teaches acquiring an elongated radiographic image of a human body part and moving the detector to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of images (Abstract, lines 1-2, and col. 10, lines 27-36).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have the method of Polkus et al. with the imaging and moving of Lobregt et al., since one would be motivated to have such steps to provide a means for angiography as shown by Lobregt et al. (col. 10, lines 23-36).

4. With regards to claim 2, Polkus et al. further discloses adjusting the aperture of a collimator (Fig. 2, #24, and col. 1, lines 30-32).

5. With regards to claim 3, Polkus et al. further discloses the source rotated about an axis coincident with the x-ray focal spot (Fig. 2, origin of xz-plane).

6. With regards to claim 4, Polkus et al. further discloses the source of x-rays rotated about an axis (Figs. 1 and 2, #12) the distance of which from the x-ray focal spot (Figs. 1 and 2, origin

of coordinate systems) of the source is far less than the distance from the source of x-rays to the image capture device (Figs. 1 and 2, #20).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (703) 605-5298. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (703) 308-4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


gk


DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER